

**WATER QUALITY PROTECTION DIVISION &
GULF OF MEXICO PROGRAM OFFICE
WEEKLY ACTIVITY REPORT - WEEK ENDING 8/08/14**

WATER QUALITY PROTECTION DIVISION

UPDATE ON HRI AQUIFER EXEMPTION (CHURCH ROCK, SECTION 8): The GW/UIC Section is currently finalizing the Statement of Basis for our reassessment of the original 1989 aquifer exemption granted Hydro Resources Inc. (HRI) to mine uranium in Section 8 near Church Rock, NM. This reassessment was agreed by the EPA Regional Administrators from Regions 6 and 9 after their consultation with the Navajo Nation on March 15, 2012. EPA solicited information on possible current sources of drinking water on or near Section 8 (i.e., on adjacent Sections 9 and 17) for our reassessment but received very little data relevant to our current use exemption criteria. None of the new information alters the technical basis for EPA's original approval decision on the HRI aquifer exemption. **Phil Dellinger, 665-8324; Lisa Pham, 665-8326**

EPA REGION 6 REQUESTS EXEMPTION FROM COMPETITION FOR THE OSAGE NATION, OKLAHOMA UNDERGROUND INJECTION CONTROL (UIC)

GRANT: The Osage Nation's Oklahoma Underground Injection Control (UIC) program has been operating under an exception from competition for the past several years. On August 1st, 2014, EPA Region 6 submitted an *exemption* from competition request to EPA Headquarters for concurrence/approval. As opposed to submitting an exception from competition on an annualized basis, a ten (10) year exemption from completion for the Osage Nation, Oklahoma Underground Injection Control (UIC) program grant would be more efficient. The Region maintains that the Osage Nation is the entity best suited to conduct the UIC work for this grant. **Curry Jones 57293; Mike Vaughan, 665-7313; Maurice Rawls, 665-8049**

THE 30th ANNUAL REGION VI PRETREATMENT WORKSHOP: The 30th Annual Region VI Pretreatment Workshop is being held in Fort Worth, Texas, from August 4-7, 2014. The Region VI Pretreatment Association is made up of volunteers from each of the Region 6 States whose professions involve working with Industrial Pretreatment. The workshop includes two half day sessions used to provide a basic Pretreatment 101 course for those personnel new to the Pretreatment Program. Additional concurrent and breakout sessions are included as part of the program to offer attendees opportunities to see the latest developments in industrial pretreatment. As part of this year's program, David Garcia, Deputy Director of the Water Quality Protection Division is providing the Opening Remarks, and Ivan Vikin, Special Agent in Charge, Criminal Investigation Division, is scheduled to give a presentation on criminal investigations. **Rudy Molina, 665-6731**

MUDDY BOTTOMS ATV & RECREATION PARK, LLC: A Consent Agreement and Final Order was completed on August 5, 2014, assessing the Respondent, Muddy Bottoms ATV & Recreation Park, LLC, a civil penalty of \$9,877. This enforcement action was a result of referral by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Vicksburg District, for violations of Section 404 of the Clean Water Act. On or about November, 2013, the Respondent filled approximately 13.24 acres of wetlands in Webster Parish, Louisiana during construction of a new ATV park. EPA previously issued an Administrative Order on Consent, in which the Respondent agreed to remove some of the fill, restore some wetlands that were negatively impacted, and apply to the

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers for a Clean Water Act Section 404 permit (after-the-fact). **Ken Teague, 665-6687; Sharon Parrish, 665-7275**

EPA REGION 6 FIRST GREEN INFRASTRUCTURE POSTER COMPETITION:

A member of the Surface Water Center and the Deputy Director of the Water Quality Protection Division served on the panel of judges for the first EPA Region 6 Green Infrastructure/Low Impact Development Poster Competition held in conjunction with the MS4 Stormwater Conference, on July 31, 2014 in Fort Worth, Texas. Fourteen posters were submitted for consideration with the judges selecting a First, Second, and Third Places, and a Student winner. The conference attendees selected a People's Choice award. Additional information on the projects and/or concepts featured in the posters can be found on the EPA Region 6 Green Infrastructure website: <http://www.epa.gov/region6/water/npdes/greeninfrastructure/index.html>
Patricia A Taylor, 665-6403 and David F. Garcia, 665-7593

GMPO WEEKLY ACTIVITY REPORT

GMPO STAFF PROVIDES BENEFICIAL USE SITES SUPPORT USACE OFFICE -

NEW ORLEANS LA /AND BILOXI MS: On August 5-6, staff engaged in meetings looking at potential large BU sites for future Port of Gulfport activities. Navigation channel and turning basin expansion could produce something in the order of 50,000,000 Cubic yards of material over the next 10 years or so. Consultants for the Port are working on an EIS for this activity and are trying to clearly define BU objectives for the material. **Jane Watson, Diane Altsman 228-688-7015**

NATIONAL OCEAN POLICY (NOP) - REGIONAL PLANNING BODY (RPB): Staff participated and reported out on an internal EPA Headquarters, Regional offices and geographic programs conference call on August 5. It appears that several of the Regional Planning Body's (RPBs) are moving along with their teamwork (States, Tribes and Federal Agencies); many others are not. This may be due to an early influx of funding; however, the funding was not EPA and has been discontinued. Specifically for the Gulf of Mexico RPB, the team members are in general concurrence that a new "team" (the RPB) is not needed. The Gulf of Mexico Alliance (GOMA) has a firm foundation in the region, robust participation and is generally thought to be the best current approach to including National Ocean Plan priorities (many of which are similar to GOMA action items). An "RPB-like" group has formed and met both at the 2013 GOMA All Hands Meeting, and again in February 2014. **Jane Watson, Diane Altsman 228-688-7015**